

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA:NC:TWSONANDRES
APPROVED BY ARA:NC - MR. JOHNSON
ARA:ECP - MR. LACY (DRAFT)
EB:OCA:OD - MR. DAY
USDOC/BIC/OIM - MR. BREWER (DRAFT
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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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SUBJECT: WASHINGTON COMMERCIAL ACTION GROUP (WCAG)
END OF YEAR REVIEW OF FY 1975
COUNTRY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM (CCP) FOR VENEZUELA

1. PARTICIPANTS AT WCAG AUGUST 15 MEETING WERE THOMAS BREWER (USDOC/BIC/OIM), FRED KAISER (USDOC/BIC/OIM), JAY SMITH (USDOC/BIC/MEPD), DAVID LACY (ARA/ECP), ROBERT DAY (EB/OCA/CD), AND THOMAS SONANDRES (ARA/NC/V).
2. WCAG REVIEW FOCUSED ON MAJOR PROJECTS IN VENEZUELA. USDOC REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED NEED FOR TIMELY, FULL EMBASSY REPORTING ON THESE PROJECTS IN THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE STAGES. SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE DEVELOPED, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH CALLS ON CONTRACTING AGENCIES, PROJECT ENGINEERS, ETC. THE VERY HEAVY WORKLOAD OF THE EMBASSY ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL SECTION WAS RECOGNIZED AS A CONSTRAINT IN THIS REGARD. WCAG EXPECTS TO DISCUSS REPORTING NEEDS IN DETAIL WITH EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER DARWIN SWETT DURING HIS SEPTEMBER DEPARTMENT CONSULTATIONS.

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3. WCAG CONCLUDED THAT PAST PERFORMANCE OF CCP PROGRAM

WAS BASICALLY GOOD. REMAINDER OF MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.

4. USDOC PLANS INITIATE SERIES OF VENEZUELAN TRADE PROMOTION SEMINARS IN A NUMBER OF US CITIES BEGINNING EARLY 1976 WITH THE THEN FINALIZED COPIES OF THE MARKET SECTOR SURVEY IN HAND.

5. TIMING OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT EXHIBIT HAS BEEN MOVED TO EARLY FY 1977.

6. WCAG WOULD APPRECIATE QUALITATIVE EVALUATION OF THE RELEVANCE AND UTILITY OF CCP ACTIVITIES IN FY 75, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 76 CCP. IN THIS REGARD, THE CANDID VIEW OF THE POST ON THIS PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY REGARDING WHICH CAMPAIGNS ARE MOST WORTHWHILE, WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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